

7 May 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

[redacted]
Intelligence Branch, CRD

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SUBJECT: Trip Report -- Visit to Eisenhower
and Truman Libraries, 19-30 April 1982

TRAVEL

[redacted] visited the Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas, from 19 to 23 April, and the Truman Library, Independence, Missouri, from 26 to 30 April. The travel arrangements, round-trip air to Kansas City and a rental car to drive the two weeks, including the trip to Abilene were quite satisfactory with the following cautions. A car rental is very necessary -- not only is public transportation to Abilene almost impossible, but the daily drive to work in the Libraries from the major motels, varies from 1½ miles each way in Abilene to 4 miles in Independence. Secondly, the car rental agencies in Kansas City International Airport almost insist on charging the car to a major credit card [redacted]. A team arriving there without one -- armed only with cash -- might have some difficulties in renting a car. Finally, the drive from KCI airport to Abilene -- all by Interstate -- takes over four hours. For planning purposes, it is probably more efficient to go to Independence first; then out to Abilene over the weekend. We did the reverse, at Abilene's request, because of a 20th anniversary celebration there the second week of our visit.

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COOPERATION

It is necessary to mention that the trip was made most pleasant and useful because of the excellent work of NARS personnel. Special mention should be made of the efforts of the classified records archivist at Abilene, [redacted] and the one at the Truman Library, [redacted]. Both are intelligent and very experienced -- yet with a probability of doing this work for some years to come, and both went out of their way to make Midwestern friendliness a reality. There is talk that NARS is trying to find money to bring the archivists of classified records back to Washington, D.C., for a briefing on the new E.O. 12356. If so, both they and the Agency would benefit from a briefing on CRD and IPD (because of mandatory requests), DECAL, and DARE.

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Very little time was wasted on formalities on this trip. At both libraries there were dollies full of Archives boxes waiting for us to review as soon as we arrived. Procedures for processing the documents varied slightly at each library. At the Eisenhower we marked tabs for each document only HOLD or RELEASE. At the Truman we actually stamped the documents with the appropriate rubber stamps which we had brought along. At both places we made 4023A's for each CIA document we downgraded from TOP SECRET and those declassified. We passed up numerous CIA-numbered (published) documents; e.g., NIEs, SNIEs, OREs, IMs, Korean Daily Summaries, etc., and also biographic reports knowing that much of this material had already been reviewed, and hoping to match it with DARE later. Contrary to what we had been led to believe, neither Archivisit had ever heard of DARE or seen one of its listings. This meant that most of the documents we declassified were correspondence, i.e., memoranda between the DCI or Agency officials and the President or his NSC staff. There were -- and still remain -- more non-Agency material of CIA interest than actual CIA documents. The bulk of this was NSC material -- either the staff or the Psychological Strategy Board (or its replacement after 1952, the Operations Coordinating Board). This NSC material ran about 20 percent of Agency interest in one way or another. It is unfortunate that [] was not able to accompany us as originally planned. After she examines the NSC material (and puts a ten-year hold on most of it, I presume), there would be a lot less NSC material for the next CIA reviewers to examine.

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PROBLEM DOCUMENTS

We were surprised to find a number of CS documents in the Presidential files. We had been told there was "no raw intelligence documents" in these files. In truth they were few in number, but more disconcerting was the fact that none of the personnel out there recalled seeing the letter which the DCI had sent to the Archivist of the U.S. granting a blanket exemption from release for all such documents.

There also were a number of briefing papers in the files, unmarked, except for date and classification, and prepared by the NSC staff. They probably are digests of news from various other documents, but no source is indicated, whether it be State Department telegrams, attache reports, CIWR's etc. The best we could do with these under any circumstances is indicate, blindly, that we would have no objection to declassification; but we were little help to the Archives Staff with the question of who would have the ultimate responsibility for declassifying them. Nor could we help much with a large number of unnumbered and unattributed "country handbooks" of 1959; classified, but who is to declassify them? The typing and format looked like OCI publications, but no other hints. There were also a few codeword documents, and some that might have been, but were hard to distinguish. The large number of biographic reports, mostly on political figures, are a problem as well. Written by the old Biographic Information Division/INR of State, they have been CIA's responsibility since 1961. Hopefully, some of them have already been declassified for FOI and Mandatory

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requests. A DARE listing, and especially a DECAL listing by keyword, could settle the status of some of these documents. We found ourselves being great advocates of mandatory requests for Presidential Library researchers -- partly because a sanitized document (which we cannot provide) is often satisfactory for researchers' needs, and partly because [] had said some of the Presidential Libraries were discouraging mandatory requests due to the long wait for answers. Lastly, there were some unanswered and familiar questions about what to do about declassifying documents from proprietaries and contractors (of all shades and degree of control)! That would include items from [] Radio Free Europe, etc. Of course as is always the case when examining old files, there were some documents which had been grossly overclassified, even by 1950 standards. (Why do people think everything going to the White House has to be TOP SECRET?) There were also some records, which will never be destroyed, but should never have been considered permanent, including our old bugaboo, Weekend Watch Officers rosters!

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PARALLEL FILES

In one regard the Presidential Libraries are far superior to CIA. They maintain their records in parallel files; that is duplicate boxes, identically labeled -- the one containing classified, the other the unclassified records from each file. As professional archivists they recognize that the cry against such a system, "you're destroying file integrity," is only a shibboleth. In each pair of files is a "red sheet," an index card showing a title for each document in that box, the fact that a document had been put in the vault box (in the case of the unclassified box), or that a document had been declassified and returned to the open shelf box, or that a sanitized version was on the open shelf (in the case of the vault box). There had been some worry expressed before we went out there that the titles on the red sheet in the unclassified box might contain information that should be classified. The Library personnel were also concerned with this and asked us to give a close look at the red sheets. In general we found the descriptions in the red sheets innocuous -- even when the document title might have contained classified information. In only one instance did we suggest a minor change. In this as well as other security matters, I felt the Library personnel did a most creditable job. The vaults were impressive and the personnel were very cautious never to leave documents out of the vault unattended.

VOLUME

Documents of CIA interest in the Eisenhower Library outnumber those in the Truman Library considerably. This is not surprising; the Agency was smaller, younger, newer, and published much less in Truman's time. [] estimated that we looked at the bulk of CIA material in Independence -- about 5,000 pages. There only remains at the Truman Library the numbered (published) reports, problem documents, and the Psychological Strategy Board material (NSC) partially done. At Eisenhower, [] estimated there were about 3,500 CIA reports (not pages), and about 3,500 other Agency documents of CIA interest, with some of the vault material still not even reviewed for CIA interest. We only saw enough of the

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Operations Coordinating Board material to get a feel for what it is like. It is obvious, therefore, that while the week and week schedule is convenient, the next team to go out there should be prepared to spend more time in Abilene than Independence. For your information, my (J.O.E.'s) records show that at the Eisenhower Library I took action on 226 documents (23 release, 138 hold, and 65 no objection to release) of about 1,482 pages. At the Truman Library I took action on 124 documents (9 released, 5 no objection, and 110 hold) of about 1,182 pages. [] records show that at the Eisenhower Library he took specific action on 129 documents (88 CIA held, 6 CIA released, 29 non-CIA held and 6 non-CIA no objection) for about 1,057 pages. He also spent time assisting [] in identifying "raw intelligence" items which fall under the DCI's letter granting exemption from release. He found CS reports in both cable (TDCS) and dispatch or memorandum format. At the Truman Library [] took specific action on 133 documents (130 were CIA documents of which 125 were held and 5 were released, 3 were non-CIA documents which were held) for about 426 pages. Guidance was also provided to [] regarding identification of "raw intelligence" which at the Truman Library included OO-B reports as well as CS reporting. This does not include many documents we only read without taking any action, and of course, the speed could be increased by dropping the 4023A's we made out.

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SUGGESTIONS

It is suggested:

- a. that approximately the same logistical scheme be followed, though perhaps reversing the order of visits and budgeting more time for Abilene;
- b. that letters of appreciation be sent to the Libraries, and the classified archivists be invited to CIA for briefings the next time they are here;
- c. that a concerted effort be made to get the declassified published CIA documents into DARE, and a copy of a DARE and DECAL listing be furnished each library; and
- d. that there be a hold on the next visit until after the next NSC visit to the libraries (if the NSC visit is not too distant in the future).

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Distribution:

(Orig - Liaison w/Presidential Libraries)

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[] (17 May 1982)

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(Note: Copies also sent to Chief, RMD via
D/IS; DDI/IRO, and DO/IRO.)

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